

Marked-Up Version of Original Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 10 and 15 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method to assess whether a compound enhances the clearing of a ~~is an~~ LDL clearance enhancing drug that includes mixing the drug with cholesterol-containing low-density lipoprotein in a host human or animal comprising ~~in vivo or in vitro~~; isolating the complex, and determining whether the binding of the compound to the complex causes a change in the three dimensional conformation of apoB-100 in the lipoprotein that enhances the binding affinity of the lipoprotein to the LDL receptor; wherein the LDL clearance enhancing drug is not probucol or a mono- or di-ester of probucol, not a compound described in WO 98/09773, and not a silyl compound described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,155,250 or 5,608,095.

(a) administering the compound to the host ;

(b) isolating cholesterol-containing low density lipoprotein from the host,

(c) determining whether the compound has bound to the cholesterol-
containing lipoprotein to form a complex; and

(d) determining whether the complex causes a change in the three
dimensional conformation of the lipoprotein that enhances the
binding affinity of the lipoprotein to the LDL receptor.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cholesterol-containing lipoprotein is LDL compound changes the conformation of apolipoprotein in the low density lipoprotein (LDL).

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the binding of the compound to the complex is ~~determined~~ assessed by a sandwich ELISA.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the binding of the compound to the complex is ~~determined~~ assessed using agarose electrophoresis.

6. (Amended) A method ~~to alter the conformation of a cholesterol-containing lipoprotein comprising mixing the cholesterol-containing lipoprotein in vivo or in vitro with a compound and~~

determining whether the binding of the compound to the complex causes a change in the three dimensional conformation of apoB-100 in the lipoprotein that enhances the binding affinity of the lipoprotein to an LDL receptor determine whether a compound will increase the clearance of a low density lipoprotein in a host, comprising

- (i) mixing the compound with low density lipoprotein;
- (ii) determining whether the compound and the low density lipoprotein form a complex; and
- (iii) determining whether the complex alters the three dimensional conformation of the lipoprotein such that the binding of the lipoprotein to a lipoprotein receptor is enhanced.

9. (Amended) A method to determine if a compound causes a change in the structure of apoB-100 apolipoprotein B-100 in a cholesterol-containing low density lipoprotein that would be therapeutically useful, comprising: ~~carrying out a sandwich immunoreactivity assay in which an antibody directed to an epitope on apoB-100 (known to be important to the LDL receptor binding process) as a capture antibody is laid onto a plate, the cholesterol-containing lipoprotein/test compound complex is added to the plate, and a second antibody, which can be polyclonal or monoclonal, is then used to quantify the amount of LDL complex captured.~~

- (i) mixing the compound with low density lipoprotein;
- (ii) carrying out a sandwich immunoreactivity assay on the compound low density lipoprotein mixture using an antibody directed to the epitope on apolipoprotein B-100 that binds to the LDL-receptor,
- (iii) using a second antibody to quantify the amount of LDL captured by the assay; and
- (iv) comparing the amount of LDL captured by the assay to a control.

10. (Amended) A method The method of claim 6, wherein, the ~~to assess a~~ conformational change in a cholesterol-containing lipoprotein is assessed by observing a ~~caused by complexation with a test compound comprising assessing the change in the electrophoretic mobility pattern of the cholesterol-containing lipoprotein using electrophoresis.~~

15. (Amended) A method for assessing whether a compound ~~binds to a lipoprotein in a manner which lowers plasma cholesterol comprising complexing the compound with cholesterol-containing lipoprotein, isolating the resulting complex, and determining whether the binding of the compound to the complex causes a change in the three dimensional conformation of apoB-100 in the lipoprotein that enhances the binding affinity of the lipoprotein to the LDL receptor~~ enhances the binding of the lipoprotein to a lipoprotein receptor and thus lowers plasma cholesterol, the method comprising:

(a) allowing the compound to form a complex with a cholesterol-containing lipoprotein in vivo,

(b) isolating the resulting complex, and

(c) determining whether the formation of the complex causes a change in the three dimensional conformation of apoB-100 in the lipoprotein that enhances the binding of the lipoprotein to the LDL hepatic receptor.